

Taiwan faces short supply of pick-up heads

DigiTimes.com reports that leading makers of 8x slim-type DVD burners in Taiwan have suffered from short supply of pick-up heads because major international brands of notebook PCs have increased the adoption of such burners in place of slim Combo drives and 4x DVD burners.

Simultaneously, global producers of high-power laser diodes, a key component of an 8x slim-type DVD burner are unable to increase yield rates, causing the supply of heads to fall short of demand.

Growing demand for 8x slim-type DVD burners is mainly because the OEM price has slipped to US\$70-80. Some low-end notebook models equipped with 8x slim-type DVD burners are retailing for US\$999.

The supply of pick up heads for 8x slim-type DVD burners is about 20% short of demand, according to Michael Gong, GM for the optical disc drive business of Lite-On IT, and could last until the end of August or September.

Source: <http://www.digitimes.com/systems/a20050513A2005.html>

Massively integrated InP chip win

Infinera Inc has won a big name customer with Level 3 Communications Inc. The contract with Level 3 "plans to install optical equipment from Infinera across a substantial portion of its 23,000-mile fiber-optic network," and will provide DWDM at the network's optical transport layer.

The optical transport layer provides the basic light-based transmission systems that carry higher-level services such as Internet Protocol and Voice over IP."

Infinera's architecture, driven by a massively integrated InP chip, allows the DTN to analyse traffic and gives flexibility into the DWDM operation.

Infinera's DTN supports 800 Gb/s of DWDM capacity and delivers manageable

and protectable SONET/SDH and Ethernet-based services.

Level 3 is "continuing its field trials and interoperability testing, and expects to finish installing the Infinera equipment along a majority of its intercity network routes in the US, where demand for IP and transport services is greatest, by the end of 2005."

The size and value of the contract are not disclosed, but the business is a milestone for Infinera, whose biggest announced win to date has been with Freenet.de AG. Infinera raised \$205m including a \$52m late last year, and costs include more than 250 employees and a manufacturing facility, giving a hefty 'burn rate.'

Power and light contracts

Cree Inc has been awarded a \$12m cost-plus-fixed-fee contract for the Office of Naval Research. It is to develop prototype high voltage switches and diodes using silicon carbide

Work will be performed in Durham, NC, and is expected to be completed by November 2006. Contract funds in the amount of \$2.5m will expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The contract was competitively procured.

Nufern of East Granby CN is being awarded a \$25m indefinite delivery/

indefinite quantity contract to provide R&D to design, develop, fabricate and test fibre and fibre components for high power/high energy fibre laser applications.

At this time, \$500,000 of the funds have been obligated and the work will be complete by August 2011. The contractor is the Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland Air Force Base, NM.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/contracts/2005/ct20050527.html>